

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are in this case. Claims 1-14 have been rejected. Claims 15-20 are withdrawn from consideration.

Independent claim 1 has now been amended. Claims 3, 5 and 10-20 have now been canceled.

The Applicant believes that the claims before the Examiner now correspond substantially to allowable subject matter, as will be detailed below.

§ 102(b), § 103(a) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 6-10 and 13-14 under § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Liukkonen et al. (US 6,230,214). The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-5 and 11-12 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liukkonen et al. (US 6,230,214) in view of Weigel (US 6,287,016). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, and without in any way prejudicing the patentability of the rejected claims, the Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to amend independent claim 1.

Amended claim 1, is now directed toward a communications link having an attachment configuration formed as an adjustable clip having an upper clamping portion, a lower clamping portion and a biasing element disposed between the upper clamping portion and the lower clamping portion. The adjustable clip is configured for attachment to a plurality of different size devices by adjusting a distance between

the upper clamping portion and the lower clamping portion, the distance being at least adjustable between 10mm and 20mm. This aspect of the invention is described on page 10, line 18 to page 11, line 21 of the originally filed application.

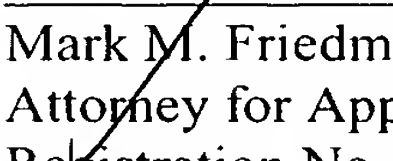
As stated by the Examiner, Liukkonen discloses an optical device for linking devices, but does not teach the use of a connector clip having flexible upper and lower clamping portions. Weigel teaches an optical connector comprising a flexible clip portion which couples with a coupling partner for securing the connection between an optical pin and an optical socket. The clip of Weigel is designed to be connected to a dedicated coupling partner having specific dimensions and not to a variety of different size coupling partners or devices. The clip of Weigel could not be connected to a coupling partner having different dimensions, either the clip would be too big or too small to fit correctly to the coupling partner.

Therefore, Weigel does not include “*a teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine*” nor “*the desirability of the combination*” (see MPEP 2143) of an adjustable clip for attaching an infrared interface to a plurality of different size devices, the adjustable clip being at least adjustable between 10mm and 20mm.

Therefore, it would not be obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art to modify Liukkonen to form the device of amended claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, and hence also dependent claims 2, 4, 6-9, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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